

INTERVIEW WITH MISS LOUISE MILLARD  
AND MISS EMMA MILLARD

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MILLARD

D - Dana Gumb

V - Virginia McGavin

L - Lousie Millard

E - Emma Millard

D: Today is November 15, 1972, and we're talking with Miss Louise Millard and Miss Emma Millard. This is Dana Gumb speaking with Virginia McGavin asking some questions, too. We first wanted to start with your parents, your mother and father, and if you could give us an idea where they were born and what their background was.

L: Our mother was a native of Fairfax County, born here in the Vienna area and educated here, and our father was from Dickerson, Maryland; and he came from a large family and they moved over here in around 1900 and bought the old place up here where we live. And his father, Dad's father, operated the mill for some years, I don't know how long, not too long; he died rather young. Then the mill was in the name of grandmother, and her name was Emma, Emma Catherine Millard, and so the ones who operated the mill for her were our dads, Samuel Millard and Alfred Millard; they were the two brothers who operated the mill. But it was in her name. Then a little later than that, why they, the mill was purchased by our father, Samuel Millard, and operated that way. I believe Millard brothers came in there somewhere, didn't they? Samuel and Alfred... Yes, that's right.

D: You mentioned your father was educated in this area; do you remember what schools he went to?

L: He was educated mostly in Dickerson, Maryland, and then he was in William and Mary College for awhile.

D: Yeah. Was it your mother that was educated in this area in Fairfax County? Do you remember what schools she went to?

L: Clarke's Crossing school, little old one or two room school, not too far from here. That's demolished now, isn't it?

D: Clarke's Crossing, was that on the railroad?

L: Right near it.

D: On the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad? By Piney Branch, I think it is.

L: Out that way.

D: I remember I did some hiking along the railroad this summer, and at Clarke's Crossing I remember a big white house way up on the hill. Do you recall anything about that?

L: Probably the Smiths. I expect it was the Smith's house, I don't know. Of course, there's been some building back in there, too. Been a subdivision, I don't know just how far that extended.

D: Yeah, well the subdivision didn't quite go all the way to Clarke's Crossing. And of course there isn't much there now at Clarke's Crossing, but all I remember is a big building up on a hill. You say it might be the Smith's?

L: Probably the Smith property, wasn't it? The Smith property... Of course, Mrs. Young is on the other side, Mrs. Beulah Young, one's on one side, and one's on the other...

D: And two big mansion type houses, you know.

L: Probably one of them is the Smiths and the other Mrs. Beulah Young, whom we know quite well. And she's a teacher right now at Strayer College in Washington, retired, partially. She taught there for years, and now she's just back teaching the length of time that she's allowed to teach after you retire...allowed to work after you retire.

D: Well, where did you go to school in Fairfax County?

E: I started out in Clarke's Crossing, went there to the fifth grade, and then in the sixth grade I started in Herndon High School and graduated, stayed there until I graduated from four years of high school. I rode the first part going to Herndon. I rode the trolley, the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad, rode to Herndon from Clarke's Crossing. And I lived

down here with my grandmother. And after that I moved back down to Colvin Run to live with my parents.

D: Where was Herndon High School located in Herndon, was it where it is now?

L: By the elementary no, no, no, I beg your pardon, by the intermediate. The old, well it used to be the old high school, down there they use it as an intermediate school. We all, except our younger sister who is deceased, we all graduated from Herndon High. You see, our grandparents living down here, we would stay down here and ride the Old Dominion car line, until we got older; and then Dad got us a car and our brother drove us, and we went then from our home up to Colvin Run. Went up to Route 7 and into Herndon.

D: How would you get from Colvin Run to the station?

L: When we lived in this area we went over to Clarke's Crossing, we just walked that distance...down through a field, a woodlot and whatnot, wouldn't take you too terribly long, just a nice stroll. That's how we traveled there.

E: When we went to Herndon from here, my grandmother bought us a car, and we drove to Herndon.

D: What were the conditions of the roads?

L: Mud.

E: Almost went out of sight sometime.

L: We were tardy more than one morning. But there'd be others... in other areas... The roads were in such bad condition. That was kind of common 'round this area then, 'cause this was back in, let's see, 1920...think about 20, 22, 23, 24.

E: That was when you would lose your boots, when you went through so much mud and had to go back and retrieve the boots.

L: But we had fun.

D: Do you remember what roads you'd take to get out...

L: Route 7 until we came to what we call Mock's Corner and then what is now Route 28, isn't that right, goes through there? We didn't cross Sugarland Run; we went up to where there...it's called Mock's Corner or Herndon Junction I think, some people call it now. It was known as Mock's Corner, and that is developing. There is a bank there. That was Route 28. And we went through there, there's where the mud was, anywhere on Route 7. From 28 or going over 28 into Herndon. The mud was bad...until finally the roads were so bad that Dad got so that, I don't know, he borrowed from grandmother, I forget which, because we seemed to have cars then, for some reason...everybody had...for their family to travel in and...we just in wintertime, we would board in Herndon.

D: You would live in Herndon just to go to school?

L: And my brother would stay with a friend of his, boyfriend that he had in school, and we knew his family; and her mother and I, we stayed with a friend...was in the same class with me, with a Mr. and Mrs. Hurst, and we stayed up there all the winter months.

E: And I stayed with Marie and traveled to town. I had graduated then. I went to Herndon that way. I boarded at Herndon. Before I went to business school. And I went to business school in town. I boarded here in Vienna.

L: But then you was riding the old trolley, the old car, that's how it was...or have your own car, which you're kinda...really you're up in the air, you know, when you did that. You never knew if you wouldn't get stuck in the mud.

D: Do you remember how much it cost to ride the train...to take the trolley trip up to Herndon?

E: I don't remember, but I remember we'd buy a ticket...a ticket book,

each one had a ticket book, but I don't remember...I bought a ticket book when I came to Washington to go to business school. Somebody swiped my purse one night and had to borrow money to get home. My ticket book was in my purse...upset me terribly. Seems to me the ticket book cost about twelve or fifteen dollars then, but I don't remember for sure.

L: This carline over here going to Herndon was comparable to the Old Dominion line that went through McLean up to Great Falls, you see, they were comparable. 'Cause I know the first year I taught down there in McLean it was our job then to go across from the old Franklin Sherman School to the carline and the station such as it was and see that the children got on the train. We didn't have any buses you see then. Or, very few, if any; they had, I think, a few, but the main thing was if you were going that direction, you rode the cars. The buses were provided and that was by private, the County did not operate that.

D: Where was the station located in McLean?

L: Kinda, you know where you come down Old Dominion Drive and just before you get to the traffic light, I'm coming down now, I mean coming like from...

D: Going toward Arlington?

L: Well yeah, going toward Arlington, well, I don't know how to tell you. Let's go back down kinda where there was a drug store and places, I can't think. I can't get the names of the places. There's an eating place there now. Well, Preston's Drug Store was there, that was the general idea. And that is now closed up, but there's something else there. There was a florist shop there at one time, Rector's Florist. Well, the trolley used to go past that area, you see, and that would go in to Rosslyn, and then the other of course, would stop at Great Falls, you see.

D: Do you remember where the station was? Was it by that Laughlin Real Estate Office?



L: Yes, it was there.

D: Right in front of there?

L: Yes. And the place that is a filling station now, there used to be a store and also a post office combined there, they called Storm's Store.

D: Where was this now?

L: This was just parallel to the carline that we were talking about that was going. And the children would stay in the store, and then we'd have complaints sometime from Mr. Storm, the children coming over, you know how they're doing, waiting for the car, running in and out and doing all this kind of stuff. It's just really playful stuff. They weren't really mean or nothing of that kind. But that operated for a long, long time, I really do not know. I knew Miss Dunkum and I started teaching. That carline was in operation then, and we used to get on it going the other way, going to Rosslyn, you know, after school, evenings. And we went in there, I mean to a program or movies or whatever we want to do. You just did that. We were talking about it just the other night, the danger now thinking of coming out at twelve o'clock at night getting to McLean and then walking up to a...she was up not too far past the McFarland Building, that's where she boarded then, up in that area. And we didn't think anything of it, but that was their main way, really, of getting around. Old Dominion Line you know, as far as that part was concerned. Automobiles weren't too plentiful.

E: Isn't there a filling station there? That store, that grocery store.

L: You mean where Storm's used to be?

E: Yeah.

L: Yes, there's a filling station there, I can't think of the name of it right at this time.

D: The Esso station? No, American station?

L: American, I believe it is. Yes, kind of comes in at a point. Yeh, well that's really where the post office was and they had a grocery store

there, and that's where the children would stay and wait when we went over with them. They were supposed to stay there, of course they ran around everywhere, you know. But we'd try to rope the little ones in and we'd have to stay there until the Old Dominion car came to take them on home. And I think...just go over and stay with 'em--that's all there was to it. And people on the cars would often complain, want to see the principal or the teacher or someone, how the children misbehaved.

D: Sounds familiar, doesn't it?

L: And the children, one minute they'd buy groceries for their parents and then a lot of them did, bought groceries to take home for their parents, and as they would ride home, on the way going home in the afternoon from McLean up toward Great Falls. They would take the groceries out, and of course, they just tormented the people on the cars, hitting them on the head with loaves of bread and we used to get call upon call. And that's why teachers had to go over and stay until...you had to stay with them until the car pulled out. We were responsible for them. That's true, really! People were kinda picky, you know, and we wanted to let the children do a little of it.

D: What else was there in central McLean, when you first remember, was there much of anything else?

L: Well, the Episcopal Church was right...that's been...I don't know whether that's been torn down or not. Is it?

D: St. John's? Up on Chain Bridge Road?

L: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

D: That's a, I think there's a car care center or something there.

L: Yeah, that was there of course, and as I say, this store and post office was all combined there and the station as we called it. And I can't remember too much of other...there were farms that led right up to the station. Remember Mr. Beatty had a big house there?



E: Yes, Mr. Beatty just on up past the Giant Store up in that area, and they had a....

D: What was that house on the site of the tennis courts that they're building now? You know, that house was there, do you remember that? It was torn down for the tennis courts.

L: Oh, there's something...

D: Ivy something, wasn't it?

L: I can't think.

D: Ivy Hill?

E: Up by the Giant Store?

L: There's a sports center isn't it, going to be opening up there?

D: Yeah, tennis courts. There was an old house back there.

L: Yes, there was some old house back there that was kept for quite some time. It wasn't for sale. I mean a lot of them thought it was going to be, you know, reconstructed, renovated or something or other, but finally whoever had it decided to sell it as I understood. I really don't know that to be authentic.

D: Yeah, they took it down. Do you remember the Fairfax Electric line?

L: You'd know that.

E: Now that was different. Old Dominion car line was one.

L: Old Dominion went to Herndon.

E: Yes. And then there was another car line that came on down 12th Street, used to go to 12th Street on that. Went to 12th Street on that, and then it came in to Vienna and then it went out to Oakton that way.

D: Yeah. Did you ever take the trip down to Oakton?

E: Yeah.

D: Did you?

L: I never went that way very much because I went just to Washington and 12th Street, just went to school, see, and to work finally, and then we'd come back to Vienna and stay...going out to Oakton and Fairfax. But

I don't remember too much.

D: Yeah. Do you happen to remember any of the stations or anything like that?

L: No, I don't.

D: Anything along that... 'cause that's something I'd really like to track down.

L: Not the stations there, but on the right way to Herndon we were talking about the other day, a while ago--the Wiehle Station which is up there at Sunset Hill where they make the bourbon, you know, Virginia Gentlemen. Uh-huh, but now out here is where the Sunday school teacher we were talking about the other day used to.

E: What was it? What was the name of that little place in there?

L: It's over in the Oakton area, that's where it is, but, uh... OK, there's a certain name for that but I can't think what that is now. So long ago. But this person we're thinking of used to ride the car line from her home to Vienna on Sunday mornings and get off the train there and she would walk from Vienna up here to our little church; and she was our Sunday school teacher, and did it for years and years. We were talking about her just the other day. She's been deceased for some time now.

D: Do you recall the Vienna station of this electric line. What was it, the same station as the W & ODD?

L: No, there were two separate...

E: Two separate stations.

L: The Old Dominion was the one we're talking about going to Herndon now, and that came, went on in to Rosslyn. This other one you're talking about came in down at 12th Street, didn't it, Pennsylvania Avenue?

D: Well, the Vienna station of the W & O D is that, I think it's painted yellow. It's still standing.

L: Worn looking. The other station is down, and the closest place

to that is a little shoe repair place as you...

E: By Baker's Hardware, too.

L: Yeah, Baker's, it's on that area. There's a parking area being constructed there now. It's been...we can show you to it. We can, I can't exactly locate it.

D: Well, is it on the W & O D station side of Maple Avenue? You know, was it on that side of Maple Avenue?

L: This was more or less you know where Hawthorne's Drug Store is down there?

D: Oh, over by the library, on the library side of....

E: Yeah, uh-huh.

L: Yeah. Well, that car apparently came in from Oakton down there; it came down that general way, almost like in the direction of the Vienna School in down through that. I don't know; I didn't ride that. Do you remember how they used to go to Fairfax and Oakton and places like that on that car. And then that would come on in and that would pick up people, and then it would go down into Washington, too.

E: Yeah. I can't think of those places on that day...Dunn Loring Station and...

L: Yeah, and then Dunn Loring would be one.

E: Dunn Loring would be one and then...

L: But there's one between Vienna and, of course, Oakton I imagine, I'm pretty sure would be in on that, but then didn't call it Oakton Station. They had a certain name. They had names of either people or some way.

D: Yeah, there were people that owned the property in around there. Like the Sunset Hills, what was the name of that?

L: Bowman. Um, um, Wickle.

D: That's in Reston now. Well, do you remember any of your teachers in Herndon?

L: Oh, you do.

E: Oh yes. Miss Edwards was the principal...strict teacher...I held my breath when I think of her. She was a good teacher though.

L: She was a good teacher, she was a good organizer, but she was that. It stopped there.

E: It stopped there, yes.

L: Sports, foolishness, any of that kind of that was out of the question, surely. Just, I mean, but she was well liked by the community, very strict and very stern.

E: Been at Herndon for years.

L: But you didn't see too many people chummin' around her. I mean, like she didn't have some, there were some, I guess maybe it was just their dispositions, I don't know.

E: I know one of the teachers, Miss Um, what was her name that I took Latin under her and I flunked it the first hear. I try to forget that anyway.

L: It was Miss Gibbons, wasn't it, Miss Gibbons?

E: Gibbons, yeah, Miss Gibbons was one. She was a fairly nice teacher.

L: I don't remember her.

E: I'm trying to think of her name.

L: Gertrude Carrier was one, the one that taught I think she taught your mother, I know she did Charley, our brother, and I know she taught me. And we all liked her. The chubby woman and very human. Things we said and did, they weren't always terrible. She always found some joy, some fun in it. And Miss Edwards you just, you didn't kid with her. But she was a very, very well qualified principal. She ran the school beautifully.

D: Sounds like Mr. Cabelus. He's our principal at Langley.

L: Yes, oh, yes.

D: Everything's got to be just right, you know.

L: Well, she was so precise in things like that and still when it

came to doing domestic things, at least they told us on our...and I don't know whether it was true or not...and that she just she dressed nicely. She kept a little house apartment, I think they had a private home but she wouldn't cook or anything like that. Then along like that, she would come and tell the ones in the office, you know, said she put something on to cook last night and forgot to put any water in the pan, and put it on the stove and it almost all burned up. And things of that kind, you know. And others would laugh, but she never saw anything funny about it, you see, you couldn't laugh. And of course, we were stand offish, I said we weren't close enough to her, and I admired her and I liked her after I started teaching, that was about her last year here, and she was very friendly and nice with me. You wouldn't have known that we were the same two people really. But I'd used to be scared to death of her. I know one day I was walking up the steps, and I was looking back, you know, at somebody, and I walked smack into her. Oh, did she give me thunder. 'Cause, you see, I was going this way, but I was looking back here and I walked right smack into her. On this landing of this stairway. Boy, I always looked from that time on.

D: How many people were in the school? How many students?

L: I have no idea.

D: Just several hundred in the high school?

E: There's a dinky auditorium upstairs and two rooms.

L: That's the old building, 'cause that burned after I started teaching you know.

E: That's where we went.

L: Yes. Well, I know who was it now, somebody that graduated, there were eight in the graduating class. That will give you an idea. And it went, just I think, I think when I graduated there was about that many. I graduated some years before Virginia's mother.

E: I think there was 20 some when I graduated.



L: No, there were eight, I remember. What happened, there was some teachers about that time who failed. I don't know.

E: I don't remember that.

L: But the high schools were, I don't know. There's no comparison between them then and what I know of them now. There's more of a chance I think for a person to express themselves and carry on an interest in high school I think today than that things were...this is what it is, this is for the first year, or the second year, or third year or what not. Well, I don't want to take Latin at all, there was no such thing as choosing in between anything of that. I know when I went to college, they had Latin and French, and I just thought to myself, I can't stomach that Latin anymore, that's all there is to it. Whether I could take French, well just imagine, wouldn't that have been wonderful, I could have learned it in high school, you see. Now you do have choices, don't you, of many things now?

D: Oh, yes, right. Would you have had to take Latin and all those things?

L: Yes, yes. I had to take it. So then when I finally, I finally got my degree I, see I went away to school and took a two-year course and came back and taught, and then I had my degree from American University after that, so I was at Lynchburg and Mary Washington both, and then finally finished up up here. And it came back to the place where they gave me credit for that Latin that I had taken in college the first year when I didn't want to take it there, but that was more of a requirement at that time. You had to have Latin in preference to anything else. Of course, French was some, but other languages were pretty much out of it then. There wasn't too broad of a curriculum.

E: That was one of the hardest subjects, Latin.

L: And geometry.

E: Yeah, and geometry.

L: I liked the geometry, but I didn't like the Latin. But, believe it or not, in those days- this was back now 20's or 30's 1923 - around that time, the schools had an orchestra or a band- we called it an orchestra in those days - and I was in it. And I know, well there were only a few of us but it was mostly string instruments, you didn't have much of the wind instruments in those days. And they would, of course, little communities like Herndon was one of them, they had a movie hall. And what they'd do, they'd call on our band, our orchestra, we were called different things by different people, and some of the people I expect called us some things I wouldn't say 'cause I know sometimes we were pretty lousy. We would be invited out and in between, you know, the break you have, the intermission, why we would play, you know, and sometimes there wouldn't be more than 15 of us, we were proud as peacocks. But that was the nearest, I think, of branching out and doing something different than just your books. So much of it then was your books and things that you'd have. Well, we had basketball, had a lot of sports and things of that kind, but I think there's so much more to interest people today than then, that was the thing. And I think that's how we commenced to meet the individual differences in people more in the world. We had more, a broader curriculum then to choose from. But I don't think some people would have been problems in the schools that there were then. That, if they had more of a choice. Now, some people I know would say, "Well, why do you have your problems today then when you do have a broader choice?" So there's a challenge again today. What causes it today but I think there's different reasons there. Some could be the same but well, but take the world, for instance, people have travelled and go farther and do things. We have more of a horizon now, you see, than we had then. So, uh, but it's been interesting over the years.

D: When did you first teach school? You said that you went to college for two years, and then you came to teach. Was that right?

L: Yeah, I went to Lynchburg College at first, and then I had to come home the second semester there due to illness. I had something happen to my eyes, and I had to stay out of school for over a year. So then I had to get back closer, the idea was to get back closer to Washington. So I went to Mary Washington College, the state teacher's college there for two years, and got my two-year certificate. And then I came on and got a school, over where Franklin Sherman is, in 1928.

D: You start teaching right there?

L: And then I went to American University and finished up and got my regular degree, see. Well, most of it I did in the summertime, I did a little bit at night, but most in the summertime. But I started here in 20--1928/

D: How, how old was the building when you came to teach?

L: I think that was...

D: Had it just been built?

L: That had been built somewhere around 1920 to 24--I think there was a portion of it, probably the very, very front--I've heard tales on this--I don't really know. But I think there was a portion of that, that had been constructed and used as a Franklin Sherman School, but then the other part was added on. And the other part was more or less a big auditorium at the back of the old building and that's when the school enlarged the place where they had a four-year high school then. And they needed that backpart, you see, for the gym--basketball and all that type of thing. And they had a very good sized high school there. It dwindled off and finally before we left, why, it come down to just two years, you see, but then again it was... Well, the parents felt that the curriculum here wasn't quite meeting up with what the curriculum was in Washington. More of the parents were travelling at that time, going in to work, and they could very easily take their children on into the high school; and they claim they got a better education over in Washington

than they did here, you see. So finally, McLean became a two-year high school; that's how it finally dwindled down to. It's one of those things that happened because I feel sure it was not a letdown in the curriculum, nor the teachers or anything. It's just one of those things that happened.

D: Do you think they were actually equal, that the parents just thought they were...?

L: I felt that way myself; that's one of my own personal opinions. Some other people I know feel the same way with me that I've talked with about, and I think that maybe some of them that may have gotten started on this were expecting more than what they got. And I think they got, maybe the fact of meeting and meeting up with different people--although Washington city, you know, wasn't too terribly big back in that time, like they have different races and all now. But they offered, I think one thing they offered was more foreign language, that was one thing. But out here we had more of a physical ed program and things of that kind. So it was, it was, I think you can toss it up--it depends what they wanted--that's the thing of it. And some, I think, felt that it was maybe just a little bit--maybe I oughtn't say that--but I think they thought it was just a little step up if you went to Washington to school than if you were here. And now I'll leave it today; I don't want to finish that now. But it came back to us, you see. We finally got it back, you see, we--so many years went by--and we could gradually see it was coming back. See, McLean was then grounded down to a two-year high school, and then finally down to a grade school; so there was a time when it went back like that, you know.

D: Do you remember some of the teachers that were in the school along with you?

L: Oh, yes, I'm sure I do. Of course, Miss Dunkum was there; she and I started the same year. She, and there was a Miss Tomko, Jenny Tomko, who was, well remember in McLean. She was down at Disputanta, Va., and she lived there in McLean; but her house was down there. And I can't think, Miss Lemmon,



she was one. And there was a Miss Brumback and...these were some way back when I first started teaching. Then, of course, as the years went along, had Miss Jett who had been teaching also down in her home town--down around Reedville, Va. She came on up here, and she's been up here a number of years with Miss Dunkum and all of us who had been together. Let's see, Miss Dunkum retired last year, I did this past year, and Miss Jett's going to do it this coming year. So that's how we kind of move along there. I'm sure there's plenty of others too I didn't think of--they're not in the McLean area right now. I could think of, but I mean, but there's some but they've moved away as far as that goes. We gotta change about, but I always did think Franklin Sherman was a wonderful school. I think I might tell of my experiences of applying for a school here because that kinda struck me funny. I mean, particularly it strikes me now knowing how hard people have to more or less have to try to get a job and maybe get what you like. You could get a job, but you can't always get something, maybe you've been trained in or that you're particularly interested in. This is when I came home now from Mary Washington for the spring holiday, which was along, I guess the latter part of March; and that's when I was finishing up my two-year course. See, I'd been to Lynchburg and been there one semester and came home. Then I had to stay out of school a whole year after that on account of my eyes, and then went to Mary Washington so I can be close to the doctors in Washington--that was my reason for changing. And so as I got through my two-year course there, I practiced teaching, and I came home. I applied and went out to see the Superintendent, who was Mr. Hall at that time--his last year here--and he said, "Why, when do you want a job?" And I said, "I'd like to teach next year." And he said, "Oh, where do you want to be?" Imagine about asking where do you want to be! And I said I'd like to go down to the Vienna area. And he said, "I don't know how the vacancies are there, but I do know that down in McLean there's some vacancies." And he said, "Are you interested in that?"



And I said, "Well, I guess I could be." I wasn't but too interested. So he said, "I'll tell you then what you do. You go down and see the principal, her name is Miss Snead, Miss Mary Snead. And I went down to see her and talked with her and so forth. When I left, she said, "Well, I expect to see you in September." I don't know if I could teach. And I told her, I said, "What grade will I have?" She said, "Second." I said, "Oh, I couldn't do that." And she said, "Why not?" And I said, "I've had practice teaching in fourth grade, and I couldn't take anybody younger than that. She said, "Oh yes, you could." She said, "Well, you've had your practice teaching. She said, "What's your grade on it?" And I said, "Well, I'd rather you knew what grade I had gotten, and I wasn't ashamed of it; but I didn't want to be boastful either. And I said, "I'd rather you found out from the college." Well, she pinched me until I told her what it was. And she said, "Now you can just go right on back to college and you can visit in the training school and make yourself feel more secure and come right on up here in the fall and take over the second grade right here as my partner in the second grade. But that was the way it was to get a job, you know! And I thoroughly enjoyed it. I just wanted to come to Vienna, because I had my mind in Vienna, just because I thought I was a little closer to Vienna.

D: A little easier to get to.

L: Uh-huh.

D: Well, where was the office for the Superintendent? Was he in Fairfax?

L: Yes, he was in Fairfax, near, it was in the building where the old courthouse is, you see. You went in that door. And, of course, they have an entirely different building there now, you know.

D: You went straight to the superintendent, right?

L: Oh yes, I went right to the superintendent. And he told me, he said, and the thing of it was I just went over there. You just did that--you just went over to the superintendent.... And he said, "Well, if you see Miss Snead

down in McLean, I think you can get the job there." And then I thought, "Isn't he going to call her or do anything?" She didn't know a thing about it. And she just talked to me and said she could do it; she had a vacancy. I told her that I wanted the fourth grade though; that's what I wanted. And she said, "Now we don't have the fourth grade; we have a second grade." And that's when I told her about it. She said, "Well, if you just go to the training school and just brush up on it. I said, "Well, I've had my practice teaching, that's all right. I'll just go and visit and...So I came on back and that's what I did. So I went from the...I did teach in different grades from then on, however. But it's been a great life. Quite different though than the ones that I know of trying to get jobs now.

D: Do you recall some of the names of the other superintendents?

L: Yeah, Mr. -- the one that followed Mr. Hall was my pride and joy-- Mr. Wilbut T. Woodson. And I thought an awful lot of him; I still do. And then the others that came along...Mr. Woodson was for a long time superintendent. I'm trying to think of some of the others. Mr. Coffey, I believe, I think he was superintendent; I'm not really sure on that. And then Funderburk which we had not too long ago. And they used to come around to see us, and you would get the picture and remember the name. You don't see them enough now to remember the name of them, see. And with your assistant and this and that and the other, so we'd usually have to go through our supervisors, you know, the principal, you know, go through your own principal and the principal to the supervisor. And then a Mr. Woodson was the one that I thought was extremely down to earth and human.

D: What was the story about the middle of the road or something that you told?

L: Which one was that?

D: The one--the freedom in the classroom.

L: Oh yes. Mr. Woodson was going to Fredericksburg--he needed to go down

there for a regional type of meeting on progressive teaching and some--very much like the methods that are changed, you know, and how it happens to go through school, you know. We change everything, just like this team teaching now today and things of that kind. So he asked a group of us about going down. I think there were two car loads went, I don't remember, I know I went in the car with him. There were four or five of us. And we were to listen what they said, and they told us that progressive teaching was this and that and the other and taking the child as fast as he can go, and doing all this and that and the other. Of course, all of us popping our eyes and looking at each other. And so, when we got in the car and started back, Mr. Woodson said, "Well girls, how do you feel?" And we said, "We don't think we can do it! We will do the best we can." And one teacher would say, "Well, I think we can do it. I think we ought to have a little bit more freedom." And Mr. Woodson replied, "Just stay in the middle of the road, girls."

D: And then he pulled in the middle of the road?

L: Uh-huh, yeah. That's how I've always remembered it. And he's just that type of person, really, No, he didn't actually pull on the side of the road, but he did it with his hands--"in the middle of the road, girls"--we were travelling along on our way then coming home.

D: Was the--you were talking about the car that was in the hall?

L: Oh, yes!

D: Was that...?

L: That's where my first year teaching--this Miss Sneed that had come in give me a job and--I was young then, I wasn't as old as I am now, and I saw some fun now and then. And I didn't see why I couldn't laugh too. So, but I was on that old front hall--were you ever in that old building?

D: I never got in there before they tore it down.

L: Anyhow, it was just an old building; that's all there is to it. But, I mean, it would--well, the rooms would...

D: Were there two floors?

L: Yeah, two floors. It had been built 19...

E: Rather high steps up in front.

L: Yeah, it had been built around 1920 to 24, somewhere along in there. And as I say, at that time the high school was there--that was my first year of teaching--and Miss Snead was there. And that was her last year of being principal there too. And they had a good-sized...but this was a four-year high school now. You had all your grades and then the high school with it, you see. And this, the reason this was so, I don't think the grade children probably could have made quite as much fun out of this as these high schoolers were; and they walked in that morning right after Hallowe'en, and, you know in those days, I don't know whether you do it too much now around here, I haven't noticed too much, but you'd see almost anything out where people had been out the night before playing pranks, you know, all kinds of things. Some of the things that you know about that you can't tell, I guess.

D: We'll see; don't worry about it.

L: So anyhow, when I got to school, I heard all this laugh, and I wondered where it is. 'Course you know, 'cause when I was young I had no idea of all this in it. So anyhow, I walked down here, and here was this old Model T Ford. The top was back on it, and I mean laying back, it wasn't real neatly fixed, just slopped back, and it was in that hallway. And so help me Hannah if it wasn't. And as I said my room was over here on the left, and here was another one over there and here was this hallway. And there was this old Model T Ford, and if you don't know what walking into a building and seeing this old car like that. And it was, oh, I don't guess very much distance, I guess between the front door back and it was headed toward the front door. And they were laughing, and they were laughing. And I remember I put my things in my room, and I came out and just dropped everything. And I came on out, you know, and I got there laughing with them too. It had those old horns, you know, you

push on the rubber thing like that, you know. And we were all doing that and things of that kind. And Miss Snead, if you were quiet, you could hear Miss Snead coming down the hall; that was the principal I told you about.

D: Oh, she limped?

L: Yeah, she limped. And you could hear it, you know. But see, we were making so much noise we didn't hear it. And the first thing, she got up her hands like that, and she did her hands like that (clapped) and she said, "Well, I never, I never..." Someone said she had been standing back looking. "I have never seen such order. It's bad enough for the students, but when a teacher bows to a thing like that, I..." And I was a teacher! And then when they gave the old car a shove, and they went down those steps, the front steps, they went on through. 'Course some of the boys opened up the doors there; they had one of those double doors, and down the steps it went and out and hit the fence. It was out there; it's parallel to Old Dominion Drive. It didn't go over that far. There was road went in there, back in there to the barbers. Oh dear. And I got razzed over that thing. I was the first teacher got there. A lot of the other teachers came, but she spotted me first and I got it. They used to do violent things there; take ink and put it all over the office, and the yolks of eggs would be all around in the building. And so naturally when I had heard about that, I thought this old car certainly wasn't hurting anybody and the walls weren't messed up and the floor not messed up. And I guess the old thing couldn't run. I didn't see anything so bad about it. I thought it was funny.

D: Do you remember any of the McLean Days or any of those festivals?

L: Yes, yeah. I remember some.

D: That's, I guess they would go on in the school, wouldn't they?

L: No, part of it did, but most of it was outside when the weather was good. You remember those, don't you? And we used to have booths, you know, made out of just wood, you know.



E: Had it for the dance, you know.

L: Yeah, they had all their dancing outside, and they would play music. Usually there would be somebody with a musical instrument, you know, like a small three or four piece affair. We would hardly call a band today. But they would pay them so much to get up on this platform made out on that lot, which was between the old school and 123, which of course something else is built there now, isn't there? And they have, they made well on this; it helped to buy that lot. See, the county, let me see how that was now! The School Board I guess, the Fairfax County School Board owned that lot. No, I'm wrong on that; the McLean Fire Department or the Civic League what ever, they called it in those days. They owned the ground, but the school had put the building, I mean the county had put the school on there. So see, it was kind of a controversial thing how you used it there. But they'd have these McLean Days and that money would usually go for the benefit of the McLean area there, the school or divided up with the grounds, whoever had charge of that, I don't remember all that part of it. But they'd have nice large crowds, and everybody would turn out, you know. Had all kinds of things to make money. But it was, you'd like to, you did not want to miss it. And it would usually last like a weekend; they'd have it maybe Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights of one week, and then maybe Thursday, Friday, Saturday night of another week, something like that. Is that right Emma?

E: Um-huh.

L: 'Cause we used to go to them. It was an old thing. Whole group from McLean. And somebody called them Days, McLean Days or Herndon Days or something like that.

D: The jousting, I remember reading about that, you know. They would have the horses, and they would try to get the little ring or something like that.

L: Um-huh, yeh, um-huh.

D: Do you, uh, what was there a School Board, or was that what sort of had control over the school system?

L: The School Board itself, of course, was something like what it is now although I don't know too terribly much. It's been reorganized and so much now and I don't know, I mean, the high school and the intermediates and all that so it's a separate area. But they had within McLean members that would attend these meetings. Whether they were the divisional meetings or not, I don't recall, whether McLean had a School Board of its own. As I recall, there were certain people that we knew that would attend these Board meetings, and if we had any ideas we'd express it to those. They'd ask us, "Do you have any suggestions? We're going to have a meeting. What do you think would make for the betterment of the school and so forth?" And we would do it through that channel. And so we'd really, I'd guess you'd call a representative on the School Board, I guess is the nearest thing. And they many times were chosen by the community. Now how, I don't know. And I don't recall any voting on that, but must have been done through a civic thing, you know, like they had a very active league there. And I judge it was done through that. I don't remember that part at all. But it was a very, very cooperative thing that they did; I mean, the people--'course there were some objected--you have that, you know, anytime. But generally speaking...

D: Speak up. Remember any of the...?

E: ...Board of Supervisors, they were the governing body, too.

D: Yeah, do you remember any of the supervisor's names out in this area?

L: I guess Mr. Alvord Sherman, the school was named after the Shermans. I expect--he was, I don't know whether he was on the Board of the Supervisors or not or on the School Board or not, but I do know that he was active. That school was named after this Mr. Sherman I'm talking about, after Mr. Franklin Sherman (father of Alvord Sherman) who was very active in the school. He lived on Route 7 there, not too far from--you know where Horace Jarrett is in the--any of those--Ash Grove. You know where Ash Grove is on Route 7? You

ought to know that old place back from the road--kinda comes out by where the Dulles road comes out on 7, down through there. You know where Carl Smith's filling station is, well, come on up there, going on up toward Virginia's house and Jarretts. There's a little church, a little church built on...

E: Bethel?

L: Yeah. No, not Bethel, but the Christian...Beria.

E: Beria.

L: Yeah, that's the one. That's what I'm talking about, and that... Oh, Mr. Sherman, he--I'm almost sure that he must have been on what we would call a school board or, it was in that, within the limits of McLean, you see. Because his father was, you know, he had to be pretty well active and pretty well liked and so forth to have had a school named after him. 'Cause it was named the Franklin Sherman. That was his name, Franklin Sherman. And we had a very active PTA. I know that because the men and women there used to go to, I mean at PTA, they were telling about their delegates, and they'd go and come back and report what they had done. They used to have some of their meetings, by the way, in the afternoon--two or three o'clock--instead of the night meetings when they tried out there; didn't go over too well, but they tried it out.

D: Know any of the names of the people active in the PTA?

L: Well, as I say, Mr. Alvord Sherman was one of them definitely. And that's A-L-V-O-R-D. He still lives up on Route 7. And a Mrs. Corner; now she's the one you talked to. She's the first principal, I believe, of the high school part there; I think I'm right on that. Now see, Miss... She, I taught; I think I taught all of her children, and I knew her quite well. I don't know whether she lives in McLean now or not. The...

D: I think she does; I'm not sure.

L: There was Avery, Tom, and then Charlotte was the girl that I taught. And I believe there was an older boy, I didn't, but I taught... And she used to be called upon many times to talk about, you know, things that'd improve

within the school, 'cause she was there when the, when the school, the school started off smaller than what it was when I went there, before they even put the high school section on it. And they just had that very, very front, if you remember the old building well enough. I say I was on the front room here, and a room here and a hall that I told you. And then right upstairs, it was an upstairs and rooms there. And that only went back just about half way of the building. That was the school they had then, you see. All that big auditorium to the back of it which, of course, is gone now was there when they had the four years of high school. Well, she was there at the beginning of all this, or near the beginning. And she is most interesting; you'd love talking to her. You don't know her, do you? 46 pin

D: No, I don't know her, but I heard a lot about her. But she goes to St. Johns Episcopal. Did they use the school as a polling place to vote, or do you remember?

L: I don't know whether they did or not. I know back in the days, this dates me, back in the days of rationing when we used to have to go to get our tickets, you know, back in the wartime, it was used for that. And people would just swarm in there to work. We had the big auditorium at that time, and we teachers worked and parents worked, you know, giving out stamps for the gas and all like that. But Mrs. Corner was there when just that front part was built, and then she, she's very interesting to hear her talk. She's got it clear, I mean her mind is very clear; at least last time I talked to her. I haven't seen her for some time. But she'd be able to give you quite a bit if she's around, available. I don't know whether she's still around here or not.

D: I don't know. I'll have to check into that.

L: But if she does--that's Avery Corner and Tom Corner, and I know Tom was living there in McLean still,--had some kind of a little shop somebody said about taking the lawnmower or something or other down to Tom's establishment that he had. I don't know; not too far from the Post Office.



D: Oh, over there on Elm Street. I think I know where that is.

L: Well, that was Tom, and then there's Avery, and then the girl's name was Charlotte. She's married. I don't know her, but I know those two boys very well, 'cause I taught Avery.

D: Was there a library in central McLean?

L: Yes. Not where it is now. That one's been there a long time. But there was one, well, I don't know. It was as you...

D: Do you remember the one on Elm Street?

L: Oh yeah. It was more like a little, more like a little dwelling is where the first one we ever had. And we used to let the school children, that's when I started teaching, we would take our children over there; we were allowed since we were that close, we were allowed to take our children over, because we didn't have, well, the library, a lot of it was for these high school children that I said were there; 'cause this school was really built for the high school in the beginning--Franklin Sherman, I mean. And then when we could go, the teacher just had to go away, go over with them, 'cause we didn't have that kind of a library in our school. And we'd go over there, and they'd be all ready for us; and that was a very, very little place. You couldn't have but one class go at a time, and that was up on that street.

D: Do you know where that was?

L: It was to the right as you come like from Langley before you get into McLean, before you get, what is that shop, used to be--before you get to Old Dominion Drive we'll say, and it was this little dwelling to the right there. I feel, well, I know Miss Corner could tell you. I know that, and I'm trying to think of anyone else over there could tell you, I could show you unless, I just haven't even seen it any, I just hardly ever go down through that way anymore, you know. This would be coming up from Langley, and what I'm talking about would be before you would get to Old Dominion Drive. See, just before you get there, and it be just as if you were goin', what's that street that goes up out of the Post Office there?



D: That's Elm Street.

L: Yeah, Elm Street. Well, it's just before you get there, but it's back just before you get to, you have to turn to a street, just before you get to Elm Street if you are coming from Langley. And you go down there about a block. Now I suppose that is still there; I don't know. But after we had our own library, we just didn't go; but, well, I don't know see. They've got that great big library now in McLean. This is probably closed up now entirely; maybe it's made something else. You know, where the big library is.

D: Mrs. Corner was at the dedication of that big library in '65. You know, a whole bunch of, Steward Udall, and a whole bunch of people like that.

L: I remember hearing about it, but I didn't get there.

D: Bob Alden was along there; he had a lot to do with the Community Center. When did you go over to Churchill Road, it was, when was that built? Was that one in the '50's?

L: That was about the time that I was at American University, signed up for another course. I'm guessing on that. Must have been along in the late '50's or the beginning of the '60's. I'm guessing, Churchill, no, no, that's Springhill. You're talking about Churchill; I'm thinking about Springhill, the one up there. You see, I was at Springhill in '65. No, this was earlier, Churchill, I'm thinking.. We went from Franklin Sherman right on up there. Miss Dunkum would have that down pat, because she was the principal, you see, that moved on over there with us too.

D: Is Miss Dunkum still around?

L: Yeah. She retired last year, and she and I been out this week fumbling around, taking this drivers' course, training course, you know, to promote safety, you know. And they offered this to retired teachers, and we take anything they offer us. So we went out this week. Yes, Miss Dunkum lives over in the Dolley Madison Apartments.

D: Oh, does she?

L: Um-huh. And Miss Jett wasn't there, I don't guess, when you were there---Miss Laura Jett, little fourth grade teacher, little teeny, snappy eyes.

E: I remember, I don't, I remember Mrs. Dye, and .....

L: Yes, uh-huh. I bet you'd remember Miss Jett then because Miss Jett and Miss Dunkum lived together and Miss Jett was at Mary Washington College when I was, we met there. And she lives down near Reedville, her home place. But I'm trying to think of who else now, but she and Miss Dunkum I say have an apartment over in Dolley Madison, and Miss Dunkum could give you quite a bit of this because she came to teach the same year I did. We were new cause we met there, and talking about Mrs. Snead and Miss Dunkum had not the same experience I did but she does love to tell how funny I looked when Mrs. Snead came out and said "What's one of the teachers out here doing such a thing?" She loved to rub it in. And then I say she retired just a year ago, I retired just this last year, and she did a year earlier than me and then Miss Jett's planning to do it this next year, kinda along stairsteps there.

D: Well, I can remember around Churchill Road the cows grazing out; well, was that a farm or what farm was that?

L: Yes. It was Mr... I think that was .. I'm not sure Mr. Trammel's farm or not. It was one of those people though that had a large farm back in there and they hadn't been subdivided, and all then. And I remember that too very well because our children, you know, liked to go down and watch the cows and I've never been too good talking to children, you know, about sex. Anyhow, the children came in and said "Miss Millard, Miss Millard, Miss Millard, we can't come in now. There's a cow out here having a baby calf! Well, you go see it." I might as well go, and they was standing back, There was a whole lot of children down there, stayed down there, and you know they came on back and they were just as calm. It was much better to do it that way than say "Oh, you can't stay down there, you know." That's what

happens when you get older, you take a little more freedom. But I was with Miss Dunkum then.

D: Did you know Mr. Swink up in the white house on the hill, Balls Hill?

L: No, no, I didn't. I know of them, but I didn't know him.

D: Who lived in that, you know, in that old house on the other - on Churchill Road, you know, the school and then that house right by the school, you know, in the old farm house? Was that the Trammels?

L: Trammels, Trammels, yes. And I taught French Trammel and his sisters. Mr. Trammel, the older one, had died, and I think Mrs. Trammel is still..Yes, that's who that was. He had a large farm back in there.

D: Yeah, all that.....

L: And I guess his son, French, probably is still there, I don't know. He had two daughters and they married and moved away, I think, but French was the one who owned that and I believe that it was just this last winter that Mrs. Trammel died. I think I heard that. I know somebody told me that Mrs. Trammel did and I think it was that one. That's what I mean.

D: Yeah. Did you ever remember a mansion "Sharon" up on the hill overlooking Dead Run on Georgetown Pike, an old mansion?

L: No, but I remember hearing something about that but I cannot place very well.....

D: Yeah, that...you know, lot of the history of Fairfax County they talk about, talk about Sharon that was up on the hill - you know, up on where Dead Run Drive twists around. It was right up on that hill overlooking - overlooking everything. And Commodore Jones dated back to 1700's, you know, some Navy captain - lot of history...

E: I remember a little of that but it's hazy in my mind.

L: Yeah, and of course when the developer moved in the house was just knocked right down.

D: Oh! I was going to ask you was that being restored or anything?

L: Yeah. The house was just knocked right down and all this - if you look up on that hill now, you can see two big trees, about this big around, right up on that hill - two big oaks and that's all that's left of it. I wonder if you might, you know, might remember that.

E: No, I don't ....

D: Well, was Churchill Road back more - start in the early 50's when they built that, or do you remember?

L: Let's stop and see now. Now Churchill Road...

E: Charlie died in the 50's.. I remember you were at Churchill at least until 1959 - '58 you were at Churchill.

D: It was right about the middle '50's.

L: Yeah, Yeah, uh huh.

D: When they developed all that? All that property in around there?

L: There was a talk about predicting how many more schools were going to be needed, what size school, that was the kind of thing people were talking about. And they said with all this development that was in the making and that's probably what they were talking about then, you see, then.

D: And then was Springhill more like really the middle '60's, then, about '65?

L: Yes, I would say it was along about that, about that time. And that was kind of - I mean this is not for publication particularly but it was rather to us that were going there. We were - it was up to us to decide where we wanted to go, whether to stay at the school or we could move on. Well, when we found out Miss Dunkum was going, we wanted to go naturally 'cause our group had followed her along. We all knew her and got along well and everything. And...but we knew that we were going to be moving in into an integrated area and we all - there was no opposition as far as our part was concerned - I mean, there wouldn't be any but I think

we were all concerned about "Will I be able to handle it right?" See? Because you know I think you can handle it with one group but maybe not others would think you showed undue favoritism. You know, I remember so well the first year that I had an integrated room and all there was just one little girl in it and she's over in Langley. Is she still there yet, Peggy?

VG: Peggy Samson.

L: Peggy Samson. She was the first one that I had - she was the only one in my room I had the whole year.

D: What do you know? She was on - in the Post, Washington Post - on TV, wasn't she?

L: Oh, was she really? Oh, I'd loved to see...

D: It was a big feature story - she - the first female manager of the football team.

L: Uh huh. Somebody told me about that but I never did see it. But .. She was the first one and she was - the day that school opened - cause I didn't know who I was going to get, of course - I mean, the names were there that were registered in the school but it didn't mean anything. I hadn't seen any of their faces, and what not. And I remember when I went in that day, there was this one little girl dressed absolutely just precious. Just as clean as she can be and, I mean, she had her hair all combed and these little red bows on it, you know, and all and I mean it wasn't just little plaits all over her head. I mean, she was just an ideal looking little girl and she was shy, extremely shy. And I tried to get acquainted with her and she just kept her head over on the desk, you know, most of the time. And uh..I gotta do something about this. So I called her mother and after she'd been there about 2 weeks and she said "Oh, she just loves it, she loves school, she loves you, she loves the children, she loves everything of them." And I just hope it stays that way". Cause she was



the only one and you just take one - I know how I'd feel if I was the only one there - now if it was just vice versa, you know. And she seemed to take a liking to the children and to me and the mother was nice and I didn't meet the father. I finally met him but I didn't see him as much as I did the mother. And so I remember when they had their little pictures taken, you know. She came to school and she had one in a frame and she gave it to me and I still have that picture of her cute as a ... and her mother used to make her clothes -- you know, I used to tell you about that. And she - her name was Peggy, as I said. And I said something to her one day and called her "Peggy" and she didn't listen, didn't turn around or something and then later I said, "Did I call your name wrong?" and she said "Oh no, I guess not". She said "I guess I just didn't hear". She said "You know down at home, they don't call me that". And I said "What do they call you?" And she said "They call me Papoose". And I said "I'll call you Papoose, if you want me to". And she said "All right". So I called her mother and talked to her about it and told her I didn't want to disturb her. I was trying to go about it not to overdo it but I did want her to feel free and secure, you know, in the room because no one was making fun of her or anything of that kind, and all. She kept her head over on the desk, I think, for about 2 weeks. She just was so shy and all. She'd walk along and hold on to my hand - things of that kind. But her mother asked me one night how she was getting on. I used to call her mother more than the others there to get things to going. I told her I thought she was a little bit upset about her name and I wasn't real sure just what I should call her. I said "I've been calling her 'Peggy'." And she said they've always called her Papoose. And I said that I think Papoose is a real nice name but I wonder if you can have a home name and a school name. So then she said she thought it would be a good idea so that's when we started calling her Peggy. Um huh. I imagine if I'd talk to her today she probably would - she'd remember - I think she'd remember. I know I wouldn't

want you to say anything to her about it, of course. Yes, I saw her when you were in a program down at Langley, and she recognized me before I did her. We talked... and she had her mother. They see me down in McLean now. You know I haven't seen them lately. I think last time I was at People's Drug Store and here they came - the two of them.

D: Do you recall the Odrick's Corner School there at Odrick's Corner?

L: I only remember that it was the school for black children for a good many years.

## Tape II

L: This is a document - a man wrote my father asking to send the car over.

D: Oh, that was the .. what did he ship it from the from Vienna on his train, the shipping point Vienna, Virginia?

L: Oh yes, uh huh, that was their address. Vienna post office, see, and they ...

D: Oh, at the Vienna post office?

L: Yeah, we were on the Vienna post office - out thru there. But what got to us - what amused us was how he could write to this man, Mr. Harrison - had an automobile place up in Herndon - and you see.... Herndon, Virginia. And look how he wrote the letter and he sent this by some of us - I don't know who - I think it was Virginia's mother had something to do with that somewhere. And look, he got a car - can you imagine that? And Virginia found out from some of the papers and put it together like that, you know, and they they came on home in the car, you know, and I guess they paid for it later. Can you imagine buying a car like that today?

D: Sight unseen? You were talking about how the Millards got involved with the mill and some of your experiences.

EM: Well, I don't know too much about it -- Of course, my grandfather used to ..... we stayed down there. He came over from Maryland - my

grandfather came to Maryland over here and bought the mill.

L: Republican mills? Was that the name of it?

E: I don't know. I'm not sure of that either. And then, of course, you told that a while ago now, didn't you?

L: It may have been but something may have cut it out. I don't know. I thought there was something else you wanted to bring in there.

E: No, I don't remember anything.

L: Well, I don't think we ever talked about Grandfather when his father died. Grandfather Millard died - that was A. B. Millard, that was.

E: Yes, that was grandfather A. B. Millard and he was - when he died, then my father, Samuel Millard and my uncle .. Millard they took over the mill after ...

L: That was for their mother.

E: Yeah, that was for their mother.

L: Emma Millard.

E: Emma Millard. My grandfather died and then my grandmother took it over and then her two sons, Samuel and Alfred, bought her....

L: They run the mill for her for awhile...and then they ...

E: Yes, they run the mill for her awhile.

L: And then they bought it out, and finally Papa, finally bought it out from them.

E: ... he bought the place from the heirs.

L: That's how it came down to us, you see..

E: That's how it came through to my father, finally. Now that's what we were wrong on the dates when they came over here, and I said I can't remember dates--now do you remember when Papa came over here. That's what he wanted to know... I mean like when Pop came...

D: Yeah. Well that, yeah. When do you first remember the mill, and uh, did you live right in that, near that area?

L: Yes, we lived just two or three houses up from there, and we remember--uh-huh--you see, that was, see, Papa was single when he was doing all this. He wasn't married at that time, and then after he was married, I guess he and Mama married three or four years and then we came along, so it's...

E: We lived in a little frame house about the third house up -- and, of course the big house - the Millard House - the Miller's house they call it now, the brick house...

L: They call it the Miller house now. I think one of the things that was probably brought out in some of the stories there that they have and one that our mother recalled and that was, you see, our mother died just a few years ago and she was telling-- we had someone come by - we had an article here somewhere on it wrote this up for the paper sometime ago about things that would happen and she said that one of the things she had to worry about was in the middle of the night we had a thunder storm that Dad would have to get up and walk down or ride down but it wasn't too far... anyhow, he'd go down to the mill to lift this gate part to let the water, you know, run out through the race - otherwise it would wash the race bank out, you know, and you'd have a flood all over the bottom down here. And, a thunderstorm would come up or anything he just had to get up and go down there and to do that, you see, so as I say and she used to tell about how worried she'd be about him being out like that and then the lightning and the wind and all that kind. And then..sometimes it would happen though even then, be a big rain and wash it out and then it'd be an awful job to get it fixed back in, cause this was all done through soil and things of that kind. They didn't have the brick walls and all that at that time and I commence to think about the bricks in the mill...but my mind faded there, I'll come back. Then she also said about the uh..what else was it she told us there..I mean, that mama said there. I had something in my mind that she was telling about the..uh..oh about

him getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning - he'd get up at 4 o'clock in the morning and go down to the mill to grind because that would be a time when he wasn't -- wasn't interrupted and nobody coming in and out. This was like a -- the mill plus the little store that's across the road from it up there. Do you know where that is?

D: Yeah, that's sort of boarded in there.

L: That's mill property now but that used to belong to another man, Mr. Cockrill and....

E: Country store...

L: That was a country store and they..one of the colored teachers - the colored teacher over at Spring Hill right now, when she came to teach down to school I was walking in and I introduced myself and she said "You wouldn't be related to Mr. Samuel Millard, would you?" And I said "Yes.". And she said "Oh, that dear old mill", said "I used to come with my father". She lives down in Chesterbrook. I bet she'd like to be a .. have something on this. She said, "My father used to come up there at the mill and my sister and I always rode up with him and it was a day's trip to come from Chesterbrook up the mill." And she said, "we'd go across that little store and get our candy and she said my father used to talk to your father and they'd bring the grain in and then they'd have it ground and it would take them a day."

D: It would take them a day to do the whole thing?

L: Uh huh. Time they'd come up there with their bags of grain - I imagine they stretched it out and had a little extra talks, you know, and things like that and so forth. But she said it was such a happy event that...this is Mrs Dorsey is the teacher. She said it was such a happy time for her father that he just loved to go...people gathered like that. They'd stay there while the grain was being ground, you see. And sometimes it would be I guess if they brought a load like he did, it would just



take about the day. And she said they'd run across that little store and liked it so, you know. So that was the part I was thinking of there. Kind of personal, really it is but that...I think we got off to our subject where you were about the mill and so forth about operating. I guess we got that in, didn't we?

D: How big was that original pond back there?

E: Yeah, it was...you mean where the water's dammed up, you mean?

D: Right, yeah.

E: Well, I don't know. Do you remember the acreage on that?

L: I don't know. It was in acreage; I know that. I think it's in that book, I'm sure.

E: I was thinking about 10 acres, but I don't know whether that's right or not.

D: Did you say it originally went up right by the mill there, as opposed to cutting across?

L: Yeah,...yes, it went along Colvin Run Road. You know the difference there between Colvin Run Road and Route 7, don't you?

D: Colvin Run Road was originally Route 7?

L: Yes, it was. The other thing that, see, this was a community-type thing as far as sports events were in the wintertime. The dam would freeze over, and they had skating, skating parties, and they'd always have a crowd, from what Dad told us now. I don't know that Mother got in on those too much. She lived down here. She didn't talk too much about it, that part, did she? But she would talk about this and that, then they'd come on back to the Millard house, which is the one up on the hill there, and they'd have, you know, I imagine, chocolate or something to drink, you know, then have taffy pulling. I've heard Pop tell about that and so forth. So it was, that was a kind of recreation, you see, the dam was. Helped to bring in that type of thing.

D: Do you remember when they would cut out the ice, you know, for the blocks to be put in the ice house?

E: I never saw that, but I remember when they did it.

L: I never saw it either, but I remember when they did it; and the ice house was down here...

E: I remember the old ice house quite well.

L: Yeah, that's down near...

D: Where was that located? Where was it?

E: It was to the right as you go in off Colvin Run Road and going in to the mill, off to the right. Kinda down against the bank. It was kinda that formed the one side of the place, I guess, 'course then it was filled with sawdust and stuff like that. And ice was packed back in there...til the next time. 'Course it was quite a good size. I guess lot of people came there and got ice. It was packed with sawdust, and you had to keep it in this. It doesn't seem like it would do it, but it did.

L: Yes, and they evidently had a lot of use for it. I mean, the families got together more, you know. That's part of their social life. And he would talk about walking up to, on up Route 7 to Brown's Chapel Church. It isn't there now; it's on that road out near Reston, but that's the church they did go to. And they would walk, and then they would come on back down to the Millard house, and that's where they'd go in and have their hot chocolate and all that kind of stuff or taffy pullings and things of that kind. So that was what their social life was, you know...

E: ...home-made ice cream too. And they'd always have to go down to the mill to get their ice, you know. ...that was before the days when you'd have ice delivered to your door.

V: What about the community hall? Remember that, how they used to have dances there, and your father, Millard, would never--Grandad wouldn't let them come.

L: I don't think he would object to us going places, but not that close home--something of that type. Sometimes they'd have some trouble down there, but I wouldn't want that quoted.

V: But they converted what the school was into a community...

L: That used to be the old school that we started to right there in that community hall. That was a schoolhouse; I mean, it was, and they made it into a community hall. But they used to have benefits like suppers, things like that, and help out. It originally started out with that idea, didn't it, of helping people in need and what not.

V: Well, then the Ladies Aid Society, what was--did that begin in Great Falls?

L: In the church up at Brown's Chapel Church. Something like...

D: What is the story about the boy and the wheel? I remember something like that...

L: Oh dear, that was written up here somewhere.

D: What was his name?

L: Elmer Besley. B-E-S-L-E-Y. I guess L-Y or L-E-Y. And that was, I think, I may have said it before, I guess I did, I should have, that he had just come along with his father to ride along and again, it was a visiting time, you see, as far as our dad and Harry Besley were concerned. And this child got tired, and the child then it was, Elmer as we say, and he just wandered around, and they didn't, they didn't notice or nothing frightened them until they heard this yelling, screaming, you know. And the first thing, of course my father thought of was that wheel, and that the way the mill has been restored now. You don't see the little steps that you kinda go up as high as he had to go to pull this lever down; but he hurriedly did it and when he looked out, he said he didn't even take time to say anything to anybody. He just went immediately and pulled out. He thought, "Oh dear, where's that child?" I think he was nine years old, I recall them tell it and there he was,

standing up against the wall of the mill. And the old wheel just going 'round and 'round like that...slip, you see, the water made it , you know. Had to get kind of a slimy thing on the board, you know; and he was up there and he slipped off of that. And that step was up higher than what it is now, since they restored it, don't you think so, Emma?

E: Yeah. It's a wonder it didn't kill him...

L: Mama said that when Papa came in the house, he was still kind of shaking. It was such a narrow escape.

V: Well now, there is that story now, I remember when I was there this summer, about the girl that burned.

L: Yeah, Florence did burn.

V: Florence, yeah. Can you talk about that? Because so many people were concerned...

E: The Besley boy finally turned out to be a Brigadier General, didn't he?

L: Yeah, he's retired right now, but...and he lived, his home there in McLean where the Evans's live now.

D: Oh right.

L: Uh-huh. Of course, I don't mean they didn't have a place of business there, but I mean in their dwelling--where the dwelling is there. And that's where... Now what did you say dear?

V: About Florence, the girl that burned at the mill?

L: I don't remember too much, except Dad telling about that they had this old-fashioned stove there. They had a fireplace, but we always knew of a stove being in there.

V: In the mill?

L: Yeah, but it may have been... I guess it was a fireplace, 'cause she caught fire. The reason that she caught fire putting corncobs on the fireplace or putting them in the stove, and I don't imagine you do much of that in the fireplace. They must have had a stove or something there---I don't know. But anyhow, she caught fire there in that office, and before they could do

anything for her, 'cause she had inhaled too many of the flames, and it was the cause of her death.

V: 'Cause an awful lot of people at the Miller's House this summer were commenting about that.

L: I heard Pop tell that; I'm sure it's true. And he told it to us, and his mind was clear as could be.

W: Mr. Watt told us about that.

D: What about the gypsies you were talking about? Coming down Route 7?

L: Oh, the gypsy story.

E: You can tell the gypsy story and the blessing.

D: Oh, the blessing.

E: You know about that, and I don't.

D: ...pockets or something like that.

L: Yeah, that was their way of blessing you. Well, they...

E: A way of getting your money.

L: There was a certain time in the year that you more or less kind of looked out for them, I guess; because I heard Mother say to Father or vice versa, "Well, I guess it's about time for the gypsies to be along now, you know." There was a certain time... I think they must have made a trip about once or twice a year. I don't know, but at least they kinda had an idea when it was the time for them; and evidently they knew when they arrived, because they came in pretty full force from what I got the idea. And they would come in, and that's the first thing they get up to, and they'd just start pounding, pounding; they pounded like this, you know, pounding like this. Or at least their tongue was running as hard as it could go, but you couldn't understand anything they were saying. And as they'd pound and pound, they'd get closer and closer to his trouser pockets, you know. And he said he'd have his hand in there holding his money because--and people then, they kept more money in their pockets, too, I mean, what they do--so they knew



pretty much what they were doing. I think I mentioned before that Uncle Everett down in Maryland who had a mill, he was, I think he carried anywhere from three to four hundred dollars in his pocket all the time, and he was robbed down at his mill, several times down there. Shot one time, but he lived through that. But anyhow, they all the time, they wanted to bless you, bless you, and bless you, and you'd have quite a time getting them away, you know; because he didn't want their blessing, but they'd hang around up here, but Papa would get real fretted with it, you know. It was just a silly thing! But a certain time every year, we'd look out for the gypsies; and you'd kind of pass the word on, you know. The gypsies are in the neighborhood. So you'd know to look out for the gypsies.

D: Did your father carry around that much money--two hundred, three hundred dollars?

E: I think he had a safe that he carried...he kept everything he had in his pockets all the time. ...maybe that old safe up there...

L: It's an old iron safe now. You'll have to see it sometime; it's just a regular old one with... We did save the combination and everything, didn't we? So...

E: It's not a great big one, but it will have to hold.

L: And what I can remember as a child, this was away from the mill now, but I guess he had it to keep some of the things, papers of his own in there; but I could remember, because I used to think it was so morbid that when people died--somebody in your family would die--they'd start coming to the house. And you'd say Mr. So and So died or something like that, and here would be Papa, and he'd be out undoing the safe, you know. And what they were doing was they would make their plans in that way instead of having a safety box or something, they brought their wills and things over the house and left them there, you see. And they were locked up in the safe. And I used to think, "I hate to look at that thing." I just always thought it was

for somebody, some dead person out of all the time, you know. That was, was the truth. And even after we were cleaning it out, straightening it out after Papa died. Remember how we had the family of some of them that...to let them know--of course, the people were deceased, and I don't know if they ever had any need for these papers; evidently they didn't. And we didn't go around advertising that we had the papers, you know. So, I guess we must have handed them over to their attorney or something. I don't know how that happened.

E: We have one or two in the drawer right here.

L: Is it? Uh-huh. But that was, they said it was a common thing to happen in those days. The people that had these safes--I know Miss Dunkum's father had one almost exactly like Papa's; I saw it when I was down there--that they would do that, you know. 'Cause see, they wouldn't charge them anything. But to me it wouldn't be the charge or the money you get out of it, but it was the responsibility, you know. Because I know Miss Dunkum said that they - her father - lost the combination to the safe down there - down in Gordonsville - and they had to contact New York and from there they had to send - I think they were a couple of months ever getting anybody--or somebody had to come down, a locksmith, and get it open for them.

E: Two times to the right, three times to the left...come to 14, turn left and...

D: Do you remember the combination?

E: I used to know it just like anything. I have to refresh my memory.

L: I think they have it in the safe deposit box in a Vienna bank, don't they?

E: I believe they do. And you used to have to start out at a certain number and you go three times to 28 - something like that. Reverse four times to 12 - to 14, right three times, turn left and wait for the click.

D: Did he keep account books, too, ledgers of how much he paid?

E: That's one thing, we're sorry it slipped through our fingers.  
I think Mom and I probably burned them.

D: Burned them up?

E: I'm afraid we did.

D: That's too bad!

E: We had some old books there and I didn't think we did but Mom and I looked and looked and looked for those things.

L: They picked them up, thinking they were trash, you know, or something, because they didn't deliberately do it.

E: .....lots and lots and lots of his writing, you know...

L: When he stopped milling, sold the mill and came up, he built a little house out back where he could keep a lot of things. It was more like a workshop because he had to have something to do - that's all it was. He wasn't going to sit down and twiddle his fingers. And he wasn't really able to go out and work hard like in a field or a garden or that kind. And he had some of those things that we found out in that shed cause when we sold up there and were going to move down here, we just had to get some of that stuff, go through some of it, and that's when we realized then, wondered where those books were, you see.

E: Still can't believe we burned them up.

L: I can't either. I just can't believe that we took his things and did it. It must have been that they were in a box or something and that box was picked up and, of course, we had to get a trash man with a truck and they'd bring it - I don't know how many loads they made out of that house. Not only that, but we'd saved a lot of school books - my Lord, we had gobs of them and they had, you know, we used to have to buy our books in the high school. We didn't have a library to go to. And we had loads of those. Sometimes, somebody might need them so we didn't throw them away. So, that was part of it.

D: Well, I know you knew a Dr. Alfred Leigh, you know, the doctor up there. But did you know George Bicknell, another physician?

E: Oh yes, that's my uncle.

D: Oh, that's your uncle? Oh, oh I see. That's a dumb question!

L: No, no, that wasn't a dumb question because he didn't live around here. He lived down in Maryland - down in Indian Head.

D: Oh, he did?

L: Uh, huh and practiced down there. And he hasn't been dead so many years, has he?

E: No, no.

L: Uncle George - we used to go down there quite often. He lived near Indian Head or LaPlata, Md. - out in that section. Used to come and visit us. In fact, they have a cemetery lot up in our Methodist Church up at Brown's Chapel. They..see, the Millard's had there's up there so they just held onto things, you know, up there.

VG: Louise, Hassell was mentioning a lot of names the other day and Mom said "Do you remember Dr. Tayloe?" Dr. Tayloe, I think!

L: T-A-Y-L-O-E. Yeah, yeah. I think his house has been torn down there now on Church Street. He lived down here.

VG: And Dr. Jones? Did you know Dr. Jones?

L: Oh yeah, he was from Herndon.

D: Dr. What was it? Uh.

L: I don't know if I recall his name or not.

D: This is Mr. Leigh's handwriting. I don't know what something says.

L: Oh yes, now he's got - what was Tony's name? Jones...?

VG: Tony Jones.

L: Yes, it was Tony but it was Tony's father was the doctor and Tony used to live right across the road from us up at Colvin Road. He's got Rexton on here which would be for Rex, wouldn't it? Um huh.

D: Um huh. Sometimes have a hard time....

L: Now what does he mean by Mr. and Mrs. Rexton Jones? Train something...?

D: He said he would know something about the Doctor somewhere in Falls Church. About a doctor....

E: Well, that's probably Dr. jone's son, Rex.

L: Oh, that's right! That's right - yeah, uh huh. Rex, that's right. Uh huh, yeh. Because Jones is a - Tony Jones lived exactly across the road from us on Colvin Run Road up in Colvin Run, and then his son came up there and Rex... They contacted us several times, that's who - that's the Rex. Uh huh.

D: I wanted to ask about Harvey, too.

L: Now, Emma, that's your baby.

D: Now I want to check with Columbus Honesty, the man I talked to about Harvey Honest. What was it Lum? Lum?

LL: Oh yes. Some people call him Lummie. We call him Lum.

D: Let's see what he has to say about what the relationship was there? What--Harvey worked right in the mill there with your father?

E: Yes, he worked in the mill some. He was really more of a yard man, I guess than anything else. He worked in the garden, helped my father in the garden and then he would, he would mow our yard for us - both places down close to the mill and up other places, too..

L: Before he came to live up there at our place, he then worked down around the mill, didn't he? And they'd gone down here with Lum then. So that would be one life for him. And then, of course, the time, of course, he supposed to have gotten married, remember that story? We never could follow it through.

E: He went away from here, went to Ohio.

L: Ohio? Think it was.



E: Chicago or something. I don't know what happened to him. Well, there was some woman who lived out on Route 7 there and she wanted him to go out as her butler. And she went and when he, she went out there several years and finally I guess he got enough of it and he came back and he said he got married. And Papa was out there and he said "What's your wife's name?" Just Gladys? That's all he knew. His wife's name was nothing but Gladys.

L: Just related somewhere, we don't know but all he knew was Gladys. And you have to see Harve to appreciate that.

E: He wasn't much taller than that.

L: He was a scream if there ever was one.

D: He said, was talking about a man had to go to prison, kind of was like he was coming home from college.

E: He was a trustee. He was really a trustee. I guess he was, because he was an innocent, the poor soul.

L: I think he was, I think he was a ...

E: Anyone would trust him, but he came over and said he was a trustee...

D: What happened with the, when it was robbed, when the mill was robbed or some such and he was paying for it?

L: Yeah, somebody got in the mill - I mean, they could tell the next morning when they went down there. I guess it was Papa, I don't know, Papa or Uncle Bub, one or the other, and they could tell that the office had been bothered. They didn't leave money around there but I judge that what they were...I don't know, they may have been looking for other things to take out to sell, like flour or meal or something; nobody knows that. But, anyhow, they got to talking about it - I guess it was the next day or night or something over at Mr. Cockrill's store, which is that little store right across from the mill and this Mr. Cockrill was right tricky. He said "Now Harve, it would be only a smart person that would know about that, how that mill could ever be gotten into. Take a smart one, not many people could to it."

And he said, "I just bet a dollar that they'll never find the person who will really know." 'Course little bitty Harvey, " Well, well, I can tell you, I can tell you," he started, "I can tell you." And so he told it exactly who it was that talked to him, how they got in, everything about it. And then Mr. Cockrell called the police, and they came over and got old Harvey of course; and there he was. And we felt so bad that he got caught. But really and truly he was simple in a way, and at times he could talk like he had very good sense. He was honest as could be.

E: He served time for two years. And then when he came back, he got off the Greyhound bus down at the mill near the store, and went up and shook hands with my father; he was one of the first ones that he shook hands with. So glad to see him, you'd think Harvey been to college, He was just as proud as a peacock.

L: Of all the things they did at the prison where he was, nobody could do it like he could; he could always do things better. And he'd say, "Is that right?" And he'd say, "Yeah." He said, "They didn't know any of those things at all. I had to show them how to do all of it." So in a way, he was kinda nitwitty; he had a lot of common sense. He was honest as could possibly be.

E: He served time for two years. And he did serve time, but he got roped in on that.

L: He was just, he was weak enough that he could be lead. See, these people knew that he did know how to get in and out of there, and I guess they must have been looking for money. I have an idea they were.

D: Were there police right in the Colvin Run area, like did you have a local police?

L: No.

D: They had to come out from the county?

L: Yes, they came out from the county.

D: And last thing, when did your father last see the mill? You were speaking about that, when he last got a chance to see it.

L: I know I was the one took him down there. He died in '50.

E: He died in '51.

L: I was thinking, it was February he died, I was thinking it was the summer before that, in my mind when I thought. I know it, I know the weather wasn't bad weather, remember when, 'cause he said up in the yard, "I'd love to go see the mill." And I said, "Well, I'll take you." And he said, "When?" And I said, "Come on; let's go right now." And he did. And I know that was the last time he was down there, and I know it wasn't wintertime; and he did die in February, so I think it must have been that summer.

D: Yeah. What, the mill was inactive?

L: It was grown up, weeds and everything all around it, you know, and all around the race, it looked so bad. I sat on the race bank with him, 'course we couldn't get in. I was really glad we couldn't, truthfully. I mean, 'cause it wasn't his mill; he didn't have a key to it. And he stood there, and he said, "Hum, hum, hum. I seen enough; let's home." Was all he said. So we came on home, but he didn't talk about it when he got home either. Maybe it would be on his mind, you know. I just felt that he wanted to go see it, that I think the rest of them would have felt the same way, had he said it to them; I thought he should go see it. And several people said to me, "Don't you think that maybe he could have had a bad effect on him?" I said, "No, I don't think so." I just didn't think it would hurt him, because that had been the place where he worked all his life, and had a lot of happy memories and all, and we took him.